

V. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER EXPLORATION
(contd from p.560)

Danish Siam Exploration. In 1958 Prof. S ø r e n s e n and Prof. Kai L a r s e n were working for a couple of months in Thailand; two of their students would stay there for about a year for work on the ecology of the monsoon flora.

Malaya.

In 1956 the following not yet recorded trips were made: H.M. B u r k i l l : Sungei Buloh, Selangor (Nov.23-26); J.W. P u r s e g l o v e : Moersing, G.Pulai in Johore, and at Fraser's Hill; J.S i n c l a i r : Kuantan, Temerloh, Fraser's Hill and Malacca (Oct.19-22).

Java.

In 1958 Dr A.J.G.H.K o s t e r m a n s has examined several small forest remnants in West Java (also Prinseneiland) in search for special rare species of Sterculiaceae, Dipterocarpaceae, etc., several of which could be traced.

In Feb./March 1959 Mr J.S i n c l a i r stayed 4 weeks in Bogor, Java. He visited Udjong Kulon, P.Handeuleum Sisi, and P.Peutjang (4 days), making a collection. He also collected on G.Salak, one day at Tjibodas, and made a collection of the Myristicaceae from the Gardens at Bogor.

Borneo.

Mr J.S i n c l a i r was on a trip in North Borneo (Kinabalu), mainly for collecting Myristicaceae and Annonaceae, June 1 to July 6, 1957.

In July-Sept. 1957 Dr A.J.G.H.K o s t e r m a n s made an exploration in Sangkulirang Distr. and the Karangan area, NE.Borneo.

In 1957 and 1958 Mr J.A.R.A n d e r s o n, of the Forest Department, Kuching, made intensive studies on the composition of the swamp and peat forests in Sarawak. In 1959 he will turn his attention to the forests of the limestone formations.

After his contract with the Indonesian Government had expired on May 3, 1958, Mr M.J a c o b s left Bogor on July 20 to make botanical travels through Sarawak, Brunei, and North Borneo, for which he had been given a grant by UNESCO. On July 28 he arrived at Kuching, as a guest of Mr J.A.R.A n d e r s o n, the Assistant Conservator of Forests. All facilities of the Forest Department of Kuching were most generously put at his disposal, and much help was given by Messrs I l i a s and Z e n, who accompanied him on his

trips through Sarawak. At first, a 10 days trip was made to Mt Penrissen (sandstone), where collections were made between 900 and 1400 m alt. Thanks to the kind collaboration of Mr J.E. Seal of the Civil Aviation Service, a 3 weeks trip could be made to Belaga in the 3rd division, where extensively was collected in the primary hill forest at low altitude (sandstone), the dipterocarps being just in flower. Short visits were paid to the limestone formations at Sg Serin and at Seburuan Bau, to the padangs of Bako National Park, and to Mt Matang. On Sept. 25 he arrived at Brunei, to make some trips together with Mr P. Shaw Ashton, the State Forest Botanist, who also gave all help and hospitality. In East Brunei for a few days the riverbeds near Kuala Belalang were examined and some smaller excursions in West Brunei followed, till Oct. 9. With Mr D.I. Nicholson, the Ecologist of Sandakan, a trip was made to Mt Kinabalu from Oct. 14 to 18 (on the summit on Oct. 16), 1958.

Prof. P. Richards touched Ceylon, was 10 days in Singapore, 2 days in Kepong, 2 days in Kuching, and a month in Brunei with Mr P. S. Ashton, returning end April 1959.

New Guinea.

A large Dutch Expedition left March 1959 for exploration of the Sterren Gebergte (Star Mountains) area in the eastern part of Netherlands New Guinea. Scientific leader of the expedition, which includes 10 scientists, is zoologist Dr L. Brongersma of Leyden. The main expedition will be for a period of six months. The Royal Netherlands Agricultural Institute and the Netherlands Institute of Physics Research in the East and West Indies have created the Foundation "Expedition Netherlands New Guinea" to support the expedition. Chairman of the Foundation is Prof. Dr H. J. Lam of Leyden. Mr C. Kalkman will join the first part of the expedition as a botanist; other botanists are W. Vink (Phanerogams) and Mr B. O. van Zanten (Mosses and other Cryptogams).

Dr Sten Bergman returned spring 1959 from a two years trip to Netherlands New Guinea, which time he mostly spent in the Swart Valley, Kadubaka, at c. 1600-2000 m alt. Mrs Dagny Bergman made a collection of plants, largely orchids and ferns, which has been donated to the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm.

In his report in Tropical Agriculture vol. 33, no 4, Oct. 1956, Mr N. W. Simmonds recorded: "Wild strains of Musa acuminata promising for banana breeding were found in Samoa, Queensland, New Guinea, and Malaya, and 21 seed collections were sent to the Imperial College of Tropical Agri-

culture. Much interesting botanical information was amassed and several new species and interspecific hybrids were recognised. A cultivation of primitive edible diploids was discovered in New Guinea - a situation of extraordinary evolutionary and ethnobotanical interest."

Dr Carl O. Grassl of the U.S. Sugar Crops Field Station at Canal Point, Florida, returned medio 1957 from a sugar-cane expedition to New Guinea. He collected over 40 species of native Andropogoneae. A cytological study of these grasses will be made by R.P. Cleary of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, in connection with the pastures research program of that institution. Grassl will use some of the wild grasses in sugar-cane breeding experiments.

Lae. Important botanical collections made since 1957 include some from the Oriomo River of Papua and the vicinity of Central New Guinea.

Sixth Archbold Expedition. Mr L.J. Brass c.s. commenced field operations based originally on Lae of the Territory of New Guinea in April 1959. The expedition will gradually work inland to the vicinity of Mt Wilhelm. A collection of 3445 numbers of plants from the 4th expedition is unfortunately not yet distributed.

Dr R.D. Hoggland c.s. are planning an exploration of the Sepik region in the Territory of New Guinea, starting about July 1959.

Solomon Islands.

Natural History of Rennell Island, British Solomon Islands. In 1951 the Danish Rennell Expedition (part of the Galathea Exp.) and in 1953 a British Museum (Nat.Hist.) Expedition went to the Solomon Islands. The results will be published under the title mentioned above on behalf of the University of Copenhagen and the British Museum. They are largely zoological and are planned to contain 4 volumes. One volume appeared. The botany and geology will be jointly embodied in volume 3 (end 1959).

Australia.

Prof. C.L. Wilson, of Dartmouth College, Hannover, New Hampshire, U.S.A., has been collecting Dilleniaceae, particularly Hibbertia, for morphological studies, in Australia, March to Sept. 1957, on a Natural Research Foundation grant.

The results of the 1948 Arnhem Land Exploration Expedition by Dr R.L. Speght c.s. have been embodied in an interesting book (1958).